

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a system where a computer network is accessible by a computer via a wired connection, a method of selectively connecting and disconnecting the computer with the computer network, consisting of the steps of:

providing a switch between the computer and the computer network, said switch being configurable between an open condition, where said switch disrupts said wired connection, and a closed condition where said switch does not disrupt said wired connection;

maintaining said switch in said open condition as a default, thereby isolating the computer from the computer network;

temporarily configuring said switch to said closed condition when the computer generates an initial data transmission addressed to a location on the computer network; and

returning the switch to the default open condition after said data transmission is sent to the computer network.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said initial data stream contains a request for return data from the computer network.

3. The method according to Claim 2, further including the step of maintaining said switch in said closed condition until said requested return data is received from the computer network, before said step of returning the switch to the default open condition.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the computer has a boot-up period when the computer is first activated.

5. The method according to Claim 4, further including the step of maintaining said switch in said closed condition throughout said boot up period.

6. The method according to Claim 1, further including the step of providing an operational protocol that enables a user of the computer to

selectively alter said switch between said open condition and said closed condition as desired.

7. The method according to Claim 1, further including the step of providing a visual indication as to whether said switch is in said open condition or said closed condition.

8. A switch assembly for selectively connecting and disconnecting a computer and a computer network, said switch assembly comprising:

- a first port for receiving a connection that connects said switch assembly to the computer network;

- a second port for receiving a connection that connects said switch assembly to a computer;

- a switch, coupled to said first port and said second port for selectively opening and closing a connecting pathway between said first port and said second port; and

- a terminal port, coupled to said switch, for receiving instructions to open and close said switch.

9. The switch assembly according to Claim 8, further including a visual indicator that indicates if said switch is open or closed.

10. The switch according to Claim 8, further including a third port, coupled to said second port, that is unaffected by said switch.

11. A hacker resistant computer networking system, comprising;

a computer network;

at least one computer that can be selectively joined to said computer network;

a switch assembly associated with each computer for selectively connecting and disconnecting the computer to the computer network, wherein said switch assembly automatically connects the computer to the computer network when a data request is addressed to the computer network and automatically disconnects the computer from the computer network once request data in response to said data request is received by the computer from the computer network.

12. The system according to Claim 11, wherein each computer is joined to the computer network via a modem and said switch assembly is disposed between said computer and said modem.